Claims:

- An elevator system comprising a hoistway; an elevator car (12) arranged to move vertically within the hoistway; a plurality of landings opening into said hoistway; and a pit (22) located below a lowermost landing (18), the elevator system further comprising an engineer interface (10) located at or near the lowermost landing arranged to generate a control signal for moving the elevator car to a predetermined parking position above the lowermost landing thereby allowing access to said pit.
- An elevator system as claimed in claim 1 comprising.
 locking means (24,26) for locking the car to a guide rail (16).
- 3. An elevator system as claimed in claim 2 wherein said locking means (24,26) are accessible from beneath 20 the car (12).
 - 4. An elevator system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein said engineer interface comprises a key switch (10).
 - 5. An elevator system as claimed in any preceding
 - claim wherein said engineer interface (10) is located adjacent an elevator call button (6) at the lowermost landing (18).

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- 6. An elevator system as claimed in any preceding claim comprising logical means for preventing movement of said car when in said parking position.
- 7. A method of operating an elevator system having a hoistway; an elevator car (12) arranged to move vertically within the hoistway; a plurality of landings opening into the hoistway and a pit (22) located at the bottom of the hoistway beneath a lowermost landing (18);
- the method comprising moving the elevator car to the lowermost landing, generating a control signal and moving said car up to a predetermined parking position above the lowermost landing in response to said control signal.

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- 8. Software for operating an elevator system comprising logic adapted to receive a first control signal from an engineer interface (10); logic for generating a second control signal to an elevator
- 20 machine to move said car (12) upwardly; logic for receiving a signal indicating that the elevator car has reached a predetermined parking position; and logic for generating a control signal to said elevator machine to halt further movement of the car until a further control
- 25 signal is received from said interface.